

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
WACO DIVISION**

**LEXINGTON LUMINANCE LLC** §  
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**Civil Action No. 6:21-cv-871**  
**Plaintiff,** §  
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§  
**JURY DEMANDED**  
v. §  
**COSTCO WHOLESALE**  
**CORPORATION**  
**Defendant.**

# **PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT**

Plaintiff Lexington Luminance LLC (“Lexington” or “Plaintiff”) files this complaint for patent infringement against Costco Wholesale Corporation (“Costco” or “Defendant”) and states as follows:

## THE PARTIES

1. Plaintiff Lexington Luminance LLC is a limited liability company organized under the laws of Massachusetts with its principal place of business at 468 Lowell Street, Lexington, Massachusetts 02420.
  2. On information and belief, Defendant Costco is a domestic corporation organized and existing under the laws of Washington, with a principal place of business located at 999 Lake Drive, Issaquah, Washington 98027. Costco may be served through its registered agent in the State of Texas at CT Corporation System, 1999 Bryan St., Ste. 900, Dallas, Texas 75201-3136.

## **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

3. This is an action for patent infringement arising under the patent laws of the United States, Title 35, United States Code. Jurisdiction as to these claims is conferred on this Court by 35 U.S.C. §§1331 and 1338(a).

4. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. 1400(b).
5. On information and belief, Defendant operates numerous places of business in Texas and in this District, including, without limitation, promoting, offering to sell, and selling products to consumers through its website and “Costco” retail stores located in this District, such as the “Costco” retail store located at 4301 W William Cannon Drive, Building A, Austin, TX 78749-1499. The foregoing location constitutes a regular and established place of business within this District. Upon information and belief, other Costco stores are located within the Western District of Texas at 10401 Research Blvd, Austin, TX 78759-5712; 1901 Kelly Lane, Pflugerville, TX 78660-5976; and 4601 183A Toll Road, Cedar Park, TX 78613-6310. Upon information and belief, Defendant also offers employment to and employs hundreds of residents of the State of Texas and residents of this judicial district at its stores.

The screenshot shows a web browser window for Costco Wholesale. The search bar contains "austin, tx". Below the search bar, there are links for "Shop All Departments", "Grocery", "Business Delivery", "Optical", "Pharmacy", "Services", "Photo", "Travel", "Membership", and "Locations". A message indicates a delivery ZIP code of 75201 with a "Change" link. Below this, there are links for "Lists" and "Reorder". The main content area is titled "Find a Warehouse" and includes a search input field with "austin, tx" and a "Find" button. To the right of the search input is a "Show Filter Options" link. On the left, there is a list of four warehouse locations with icons for directions, store details, and other services. To the right is a map of the Austin area with numbered pins (1-4) corresponding to the listed locations. The map shows major roads like I-35, Loop 1, and Loop 360, along with various towns and landmarks.

Rank	Location	Distance	Address	Phone Number	Action Buttons
1	S Austin	6.26 mi	4301 W WILLIAM CANNON DR BLDG A STE AUSTIN, TX 78749-1499	(512) 382-3013	Get Directions, Store Details
2	Austin	9.05 mi	10401 RESEARCH BLVD AUSTIN, TX 78759-5712	(512) 634-2253	Get Directions, Store Details
3	Pflugerville	16.95 mi	1901 KELLY LN PFLUGERVILLE, TX 78660-5976	(737) 888-6037	Get Directions, Store Details
4	Cedar Park TX	18.64 mi	4601 183A TOLL RD CEDAR PARK, TX 78613-6310		Get Directions, Store Details

*See Costco Wholesale Corporation, Find a Warehouse at a Nearby Location | Costco, <https://www.costco.com/warehouse-locations?location=austin%2C+tx> (last visited August 19, 2021).*

6. Thus, venue is proper in this District because Defendant maintains at least one regular and established place of business within this District. On information and belief, Defendant has committed acts of infringement in this District by selling and/or offering for sale the products alleged herein to infringe Lexington's patent. Further, upon information and belief, Defendant has committed or induced acts of infringement, and/or advertise, market, sell, and/or offer to sell products, including infringing products, in this District.

7. This Court has personal jurisdiction over the Defendant. Defendant has conducted and does conduct business within the State of Texas and within this District. Defendant purposefully and voluntarily sold one or more of the infringing products with the expectation that they will be purchased by and used by consumers in this District. These infringing products have been and continue to be purchased by and used by consumers in this District. Defendant has committed acts of patent infringement within the United States and, more particularly, within this District. Defendant has (i) availed itself of the rights and benefits of the laws of the State of Texas, (ii) transacted, conducted, and/or solicited business and engaged in a persistent course of conduct in the State of Texas (and in this District), (iii) derived substantial revenue from the sales and/or use of products, such as the infringing products, in the State of Texas (and in this District), (iv) purposefully directed activities (directly and/or through intermediaries), such as shipping, distributing, offering for sale, selling, and/or advertising the infringing products, at residents of the State of Texas (and residents in this District), (v) delivered infringing products into the stream of commerce with the expectation that the infringing products will be used and/or purchased by consumers in the State of Texas (and in this District), and (vi) committed acts of patent infringement in the State of Texas (and in this District).

#### **PATENT INFRINGEMENT**

8. Lexington incorporates by reference the paragraphs above as if fully set forth herein.

9. On August 30, 2005, United States Patent No. 6,936,851 B2 entitled “Semiconductor Light-Emitting Device and Method for Manufacturing the Same” was duly and legally issued after full and fair examination. Lexington is the owner of all right, title, and interest in and to the patent by assignment, with full right to bring suit to enforce the patent, including the right to

recover for past infringement damages and the right to recover future royalties, damages, and income.

10. On September 30, 2013, an *ex parte* reexamination no. 90/012,964 was initiated for United States Patent No. 6,936,851 B2. An *ex parte* reexamination certificate was issued on December 5, 2014 for United States Patent No. 6,936,851 C1. The patent, together with the *ex parte* reexamination certificate, is attached hereto as Exhibit 1. United States Patent No. 6,936,851 B2 and 6,936,851 C1 are collectively known as the '851 Patent.

11. The '851 Patent is valid and enforceable.

12. To the extent any marking or notice was required by 35 U.S.C. § 287, Plaintiff has complied with the applicable marking and/or notice requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 287.

13. Upon information and belief, Defendant has infringed and/or continues to infringe (literally and/or under the doctrine of equivalents) one or more claims of the '851 Patent in this judicial district and elsewhere in the United States, including at least claim 1, by, among other things, making, using, offering for sale, selling, and/or importing light-emitting diode ("LED") lighting products containing LEDs that infringe the '851 Patent (collectively, the "Accused Products").

14. Exemplary charts comparing the asserted claims of the '851 patent to exemplars of Defendant's products are attached as Exhibits 2-7. These Exhibits provide information regarding infringement of the '851 Patent are illustrative and are provided for purposes of satisfying Plaintiff's pleading obligations and should not be construed as limiting. Plaintiff will serve infringement contentions in this case in accord with the Local Rules and schedule entered by the Court.

15. Defendant has not been licensed under the '851 Patent.

16. Defendant's acts of infringement have caused damage to Plaintiff. Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendant the damages sustained by Plaintiff as a result of the wrongful acts of Defendant in an amount subject to proof at trial.

17. Defendant has had actual notice of its infringement of the '851 Patent since on or about July 22, 2019, when Lexington sent Defendant a letter making it aware of the '851 Patent and identifying certain of Defendant's LED lighting products. Defendant has had actual notice of its infringement of the '851 Patent since on or about May 27, 2021, when Lexington sent Defendant a letter making it aware of the '851 Patent and identifying certain of Defendant's LED lighting products.

18. Since at least the filing of the original complaint in this action, and/or service of same, Defendant has had knowledge of the '851 Patent and has had knowledge of its infringement of the '851 Patent.

19. Since at least Defendant's receipt of Lexington's July 22, 2019 letter, Defendant has been aware of the '851 Patent and has had knowledge of its infringement of the '851 Patent. Since at least Defendant's receipt of Lexington's May 27, 2021 letter, Defendant has been aware of the '851 Patent and has had knowledge of its infringement of the '851 Patent.

20. Defendant's infringement has been and continues to be willful and deliberate. Upon information and belief, Defendant deliberately infringed the '851 Patent and acted recklessly and in disregard to the '851 Patent by making, having made, using, importing, and offering for sale products that infringe the '851 Patent. Upon information and belief, the risks of infringement were known to Defendant and/or were so obvious under the circumstances that the infringement risks should have been known. Upon information and belief, Defendant has no reasonable non-infringement theories. Upon information and belief, Defendant has not attempted any

design/sourcing change to avoid infringement. Defendant has acted despite an objectively high likelihood that its actions constituted infringement of the '851 Patent. In addition, this objectively-defined risk was known or should have been known to Defendant. Upon information and belief, Defendant has willfully infringed and/or continues to willfully infringe the '851 Patent. Defendant's actions of being made aware of its infringement, not developing any non-infringement theories, not attempting any design/sourcing change, and not ceasing its infringement constitute egregious behavior beyond typical infringement.

21. Defendant's affirmative acts of selling the Accused Products, causing the Accused Products to be sold, advertised, offered for sale, and/or distributed, and providing instruction manuals for the Accused Products have induced and continue to induce Defendant's customers, and/or end-users to use the Accused Products in their normal and customary way to infringe the '851 Patent. For example, it can be reasonably inferred that end-users will use the infringing products, which will cause the LEDs that are the subject of the claimed invention to be used. Defendant specifically intended and was aware that these normal and customary activities would infringe the '851 Patent. By way of example, the LEDs that are the subject of the claim invention are energized and illuminated when an infringing light bulb is turned on and its LEDs illuminated. These actions have induced and continue to induce the direct infringement of the '851 Patent by end-users. Defendant performed the acts that constitute induced infringement, and would induce actual infringement, with the knowledge of the '851 Patent and with the knowledge, or willful blindness to the probability, that the induced acts would constitute infringement. Upon information and belief, Defendant specifically intended (and intends) that its actions will result in infringement of at least claim 1 of the '851 Patent, or subjectively believes that its actions will result in infringement of the '851 Patent but took deliberate actions to avoid learning of those

facts, as set forth above. Upon information and belief, Defendant knew of the '851 Patent and knew of its infringement, including by way of this lawsuit and earlier as described above.

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff hereby demands a jury for all issues so triable.

**PRAYER**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment that:

1. Defendant has infringed the '851 Patent;
2. Plaintiff recover actual damages under 35 U.S.C. § 284;
3. Plaintiff be awarded supplemental damages for any continuing post-verdict infringement up until final judgment;
4. Plaintiff be awarded a compulsory ongoing royalty;
5. Plaintiff be awarded an accounting of damages;
6. Plaintiff be awarded enhanced damages for willful infringement as permitted under the law;
7. A judgment and order requiring Defendant to pay to Plaintiff pre-judgment and post-judgment interest on the damages awarded, including an award of pre-judgment interest, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284, from the date of each act of infringement of the '851 Patent by Defendant to the day a damages judgment is entered, and a further award of post-judgment interest, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1961, continuing until such judgment is paid, at the maximum rate allowed by law;
8. An award to Plaintiff of the costs of this action and its reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §285;
9. Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable.

DATED: August 19, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Robert D. Katz

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**ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF  
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